

## The Official Crop Estimate

The official estimate of crop conditions was issued from the provincial department of agriculture on July 21st. The estimate is based upon reports sent in by regular correspondents and generally betokens a favorable condition in all parts of the province. The estimated yield of spring and winter wheat is very nearly twice that of the yield of 1907. The acreage of spring wheat is given as 193,731, an increase of 70,747 acres in the area sown. The yield is estimated at 4,262,082 bushels, figures based upon a return of 22 bushels per acre. The yield last year was 18 per acre. The acreage to winter wheat is 95,000 acres, an increase of about 14,000 acres over 1907, and the yield is estimated at 2,365,000 bushels on an acre return of 23 bushels. Last year it was 23.8.

Oats show an acreage of 424,825 acres, an increase of 120,637 over last year's acreage. The yield is figured to 14,426,997 bushels, based on an acre yield of 33.5 bushels. The acreage return last year was 30.14 bushels per acre. The barley acreage is placed at 87,924 acres against 54,191 acres in 1907. The estimated total yield is given as 2,351,967 bushels at an average acre return of 26.71 bushels. The 1907 barley yield was 19.79 bushels per acre. The flax area sown is 12,293 acres from which a yield of 153,662 is expected; an acre yield of 12.3 bushels, as against 6,478 acres sown in 1907, a total return of 49,947 bushels and an acre yield of 7.71 bushels. There were 1,009 acres sown this year to speltz as compared with 151 acres a year ago. A return of 28,261 bushels is expected, a yield of 27 to the acre in comparison to 22.15 bushels in 1907.

## Good Reading For August

The Improvement Era for August contains sixteen extra pages of reading matter making a book of one hundred pages. It has twenty-four illustrations; and contains articles from President Joseph F. Smith, Dr. Joseph M. Tanner, Dr. James E. Talmage, Nephi Anderson, and Hon. B. H. Roberts, and many other contributors,—eighteen in all. "Practical Prayer and Healing," and "Is Speculation a Legitimate Means of Earning a Livelihood?" are subjects treated by President Smith. "Temperance,—Inspiration to progress," is a striking sermon by President Heber J. Grant. B. H. Jacobson, B. A., the first Cecil Rhodes scholar from Utah, describes "Oxford and the Rhodes Scholarships," in an article containing twelve illustrations. Heversham Church, where President John Taylor was christened, is reproduced. The second article on "Pioneer Boys," with many Indian illustrations, is given by Solomon F. Kimball. Some very remarkable testimonies at the M. I. A. Conference are printed under the title, "For the Increase of Faith," Dr. Talmage, treats on "Lord of All." "How May a Young Man Gain Success" is an inspirational article by George D. Kirby. "The Seventies Council Table," "Messages from the Missions," Mutual Work, Events and Comments, poems and other shorter articles, make the Improvement Era for August an ideal number for summer reading.

The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company was incorporated five years ago for the purpose of constructing the western division of the National Transcontinental Railway and operating the whole of that great system. The western division extends from Winnipeg to the Pacific Ocean. It is now under construction from Winnipeg to the Rocky Mountains and as far as Edmonton it has been practically completed. So much of the road was the other day formally declared open for traffic.

## Farming Conditions

Anyone who is abroad in the farming districts of the west at this season, if he is capable of being impressed at all with the problems and necessities of agriculture must have one fact at least clearly and forcibly impressed upon him, that the farming question of first magnitude in this country is the conservation of moisture in the soil. This is no new statement, nor are we going to put the matter in any new light. Up and down the grain growing districts of western Canada there are thousands of acres of grain—wheat, oats and barley—that is thin and spindly on the ground, that has been checked in its growth, that will not yield anything like the returns it should, simply because the soil in which it is growing does not contain moisture sufficient to maintain vigorous growth. Whatever the railway magnates, the politicians and others who seem interested in booming the country may say in regard to the bumper crop we are about to harvest, anyone who is practically engaged in grain growing knows that the dry spell during the last week in June and the first two weeks of July seriously injured the growing crop in a good many districts. Previous to that over almost the entire Canadian west we had had abundance of rainfall. That a drought of about three weeks could affect the growing crop as it has apparently done does not reflect favorably upon the methods employed by a good many farmers in grain growing.

Summer fallows in most cases stand out strong and vigorous, nowhere with any indication that injury through lack of moisture is affecting them, but unplowed land or land that was put into grain with scarcely any preparatory cultivation at all has been unable to retain in it sufficient of the moisture it received less than a month ago, to carry its crop over one brief drought of two or three weeks duration. The lesson is to prepare the land better, open it up so that moisture can be retained and handle it in such a way that the minimum moisture loss will occur during the growing season, that every ounce possible of the water in the soil may be available for nourishing the plant.

The principles of such a system of cultivation have been preached frequently enough, but there difficulties and obstacles in the way of most farmers carrying them out. It seems sometimes that if farmers would put less land into crops and make certain, by careful preparation, that their soils were capable of nourishing a full growth they would get more returns from less land and labor than they do now.

A Michigan editor retired from the business and his good bye is chronicled in the following language. The undersigned retires from the paper with the conviction that all is vanity. From the hour his paper was first started to the present time he has been solicited to lie on every given subject and can't remember having told a wholesome truth without diminishing his subscription list or making an enemy. Under these circumstances of trial and having a thorough contempt for himself he retires in order to recruit his moral constitution.

The South Dakota Experiment Station has just issued a bulletin giving the results of some co-operative experiment work in sugar-beet growing carried on in that state during the past year. The average returns per acre for the whole state totalled \$65.33 and the cost of production amounted to \$37.64, leaving a clear profit to the farmer of \$27.67 per acre. In addition he had the tops for feeding and his land was cleaned of foul weeds. The average percentage of sugar was 18.44 per cent.

The great Marathon race which is one of the greatest athletic events in the world of sport was won in London England by Hays, American; Hefferon of South Africa was 2nd, Durando finished first but had to be assisted for the last few yards of the course. Both Hays and Hefferon were former Canadians. The later went to South Africa with the Strathcona Horse and has since lived there.

## SYNOPSIS OF Coal Mining Regulations

Coal mining rights of the Dominion, in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Yukon Territory, the North-West Territory and British Columbia, may be leased for a term of twenty-one years at an annual rental of \$1 an acre, not more than 2,560 acres will be leased to one applicant.

Application for a lease must be made to the Agent or Sub-Agent of the district in which the rights applied for are situated. In surveyed territory the land must be described by sections, or legal sub-divisions of sections, and in unsurveyed territory the tract applied for shall be staked out.

Each application must be accompanied by a fee of \$5, which will be refunded if the rights applied for are not available but not otherwise. A royalty shall be paid on the merchantable output of the mine at the rate of five cents per ton.

Every lessee of coal mining rights which are not being operated shall furnish the district agent of Dominion Lands with a sworn statement to that effect at least once in each year.

The lease will include the coal mining rights only, but the lessee may be permitted to purchase whatever available surface rights may be considered necessary for the working of the mine at the rate of \$10 an acre.

For full information application should be made to the Secretary of the Department of Interior, Ottawa, or to any Agent or Sub-Agent of Dominion Lands.

W. W. CORY,  
Deputy Minister of the Interior.

## Municipal Directory, '08

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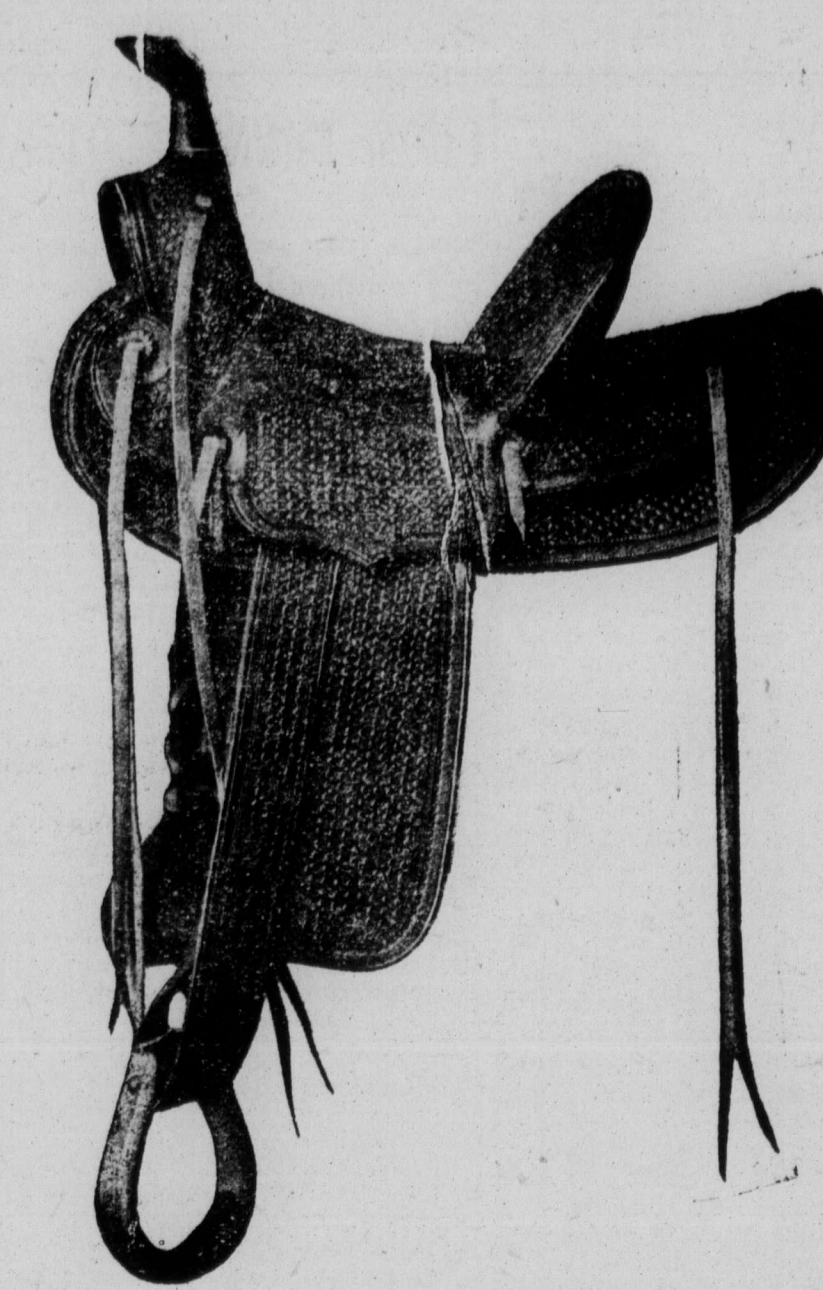
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